

Appl. No. 10/045,930  
Amdt. dated March 23, 2004  
Reply to Office action of September 26, 2003

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 6-10 with the following:

The method of the present invention provides aerogels that are amenable to the formation of monolayers, which can be applied to render the aerogels into functionalized aerogels. The formation of such monolayers and functionalized aerogels is described in co-pending US Patent Application Ser. No. 10/045,948, filed concurrently herewith, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by this reference.